A

LETTER

TO THE LATE

RECORDER of *Newcastle*,

From an Old Friend.

This is an ironical congratulation of W. T. upon the consequences of his information agt. three friends for a certain juvenile frolick, by wch. their loyalty became suspected till they established their Character by taking Oaths of purgation.

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TO THE LATE

RECORDER of ~~Newcastle~~.

R. N—, Recorder of.

From an OLD FRIEND.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

A

LETTER

TO THE LATE

RECORDER of *N*——,

DEAR SIR,

AFTER the mortifying Reception I gave you, when you did me the Favour of calling laſt Winter, you will wonder to hear from one, whoſe Friendſhip no doubt by this Time you have totally deſpaired of; and if the Reaſons had ſtill ſubſiſted, upon which my Behaviour at that

Time was founded, I ſhould have thought it a Diſgrace to my Underſtanding, as well as Character, to acknowledge the Intimacy and Confidence which united us for more than twenty Years. I can imagine what paſſed in your Mind at being diſmiſſed with Coolneſs, when you expected Comfort, and was obliged to retire from the only Aſylum you was driven to by the miſtaken Violence of the Times. But you will excuſe me, when you take a candid Retroſpect at your own Situation and mine, and will love me as cordially as ever, when you read this public Confeſſion of my Miſtake, which ſhall be confirmed, when Buſineſs will permit me to make an Excurſion into the North, more fully to acquit you of all the Imputations your Character has been loaded with.

The Charge of betraying the convivial Pleaſantries of your Friends, eſpecially at ſuch a Diſtance of Time, and in ſo critical a Juncture, when they were juſt flushed with the Victory they had gained over the warmeſt Zealots for a deſerted Cauſe, very naturally effaced

effaced the Impreſſions I formerly had of your ſocial Virtues, of your Honour, Fidelity and Taciturnity, in thoſe Inſtances at leaſt, in which it ſeemed to be both your Credit and Intereſt, that you ſhould on all Occaſions be ſecret and faithful.

It was alledged in your Behalf, That the Words were unguarded, previous to any Clamor about their Character, and never meant to engage the Attention of the Kingdom, much leſs of all *Europe*. But when I conſidered, that the moſt promiſing Syſtem of Power that ever was planned, was very near being diſconcerted by your Indiſcretion, and how well grounded the Suſpicions were before, which you, I had almoſt ſaid, confirmed, How was it poſſible I could rank you among any other Claſs of Men, than thoſe Roman *Delatores*, with whom I ſhould be ſorry, from the Regard every one is allowed to have for his own Safety, to compare any Perſon that had ever been admitted to the leaſt Share in my Confidence.

[The Hearts of Men are wiſely ſecured againſt the Penalties of Law, and without ſuch Security the Right of private Judgment would be miſerably endangered; there would be an End of that Peace and Harmony, under which Men of different Deſigns and Principles act together; the Power which is founded in a neceſſary Diſſimulation would be terribly ſhaken, and the beſt intentioned Men would be of no Uſe to the Public, if the Public ſhould capriciouſly refuſe to be ſerved in the Manner they intend.

You ſee, my Friend, what abundant Reaſon I had to condemn you. It was the moſt complicated Piece of Miſchief that ever Levity and Inconſideration produced. If you had ſeen the Agitation of your Friends, how diſtreſſed they were to ſupport the Opinion of their Conduct and Principles, which it was of ſuch Conſequence to them to eſtabliſh; how one of them, who is naturally thoughtful, expreſſed his Terrors by the moſt ghaſtly Image, that ever the Heart of Man ſtamp'd upon a Face; how another laid aſide the

Lively

† Mr. Sane * Mr. May

Lively Superciliouſneſs, which till then had reſulted from the Conſciouſneſs of his own Weight and Importance, and had no more of his uſual Preſence of Mind, than merely ſerved the Purpoſe of denying the Charge: How a third, juſt arrived at the Summit of † his Wiſhes, curſed the Day when he moved out of the Elements of Grammar, to expoſe himſelf to the unhappy Memories of his familiar Friends; you would have ſtood amazed at the Confuſion you had wrought, and would have defeated more effectually, if poſſible, than you did, the Conſequences, which had you perſiſted, muſt irretrievably have enſued.

I call it a complicated Piece of Miſchief, becauſe it not only happened at the moſt unfavourable Time, but it wounded them in the moſt eſſential Part of their Characters. I have already hinted how unfortunately it fell out with reſpect to the Time. They were juſt then ſo exceſſively Unpopular, that the World was prepared for any the moſt bitter In-

† Dr. I—n Bp of G—r.

Inſinuations, that Malice could have forged againſt them. But unluckily there was not a Prejudice or Suſpicion entertained, which was not of an earlier Date, prior to the Enmities they had then created, and therefore grounded in ſomething elſe, than that Part of their Conduct which had juſt rendered them obnoxious. And theſe Suſpicions having prevailed ſo univerſally before that Time, they operated with the greater Succeſs, as the Public was at a Loſs to impute the Changes, which had happened, to any other Cauſe, than the different Characters of the Perſons who found it neceſſary to ſeperate.

However theſe were ſtill no more than Suſpicions, which *Calumny is always as ready to vent, as Credulity can be to ſwallow*; which might indeed occaſion them to be *particularly watched* in a trying Seaſon; but it was their Triumph, that not one amongſt all their Enemies could, and not one amongſt all their Friends would, juſtify and confirm theſe Suſpicions by the expreſs Charge of a Matter

Matter of Fact: In the Midſt of this Triumph and Exultation, which naturally flowed from a Victory to all Appearance very compleat, you ſtepp'd forth, to the ſeeming Amazement of themſelves, rather than of the World, with a Fact which a Perſon in any other Situation than theirs would have choſen to confeſs and ridicule, rather than be involved in an Enquiry ſo conſpicuous, which whatever the Reſult of it might be, would leave a vulgar Prejudice on the Minds of Men, that ſo much Smoke muſt be the Effect of ſome Fire.

It was another unlucky Circumſtance in Point of Time, that they were juſt then involved in the Support of Characters, not more unſuſpected than their own; for as if it was the Pleaſure of Fortune to diſtreſs her Minions, ſhe had connected them with ſome of the worſt Men, both in Politicks and Morals, that were ever taken into a political Connexion.

Beſides

A.S. Beſides this, the grave Politician before-mentioned ſaw at that Time the Cloud gathering, which hath ſince burſt with ſo much Vehemence over the Head of his *pious* ≠ Brother. It is true, he could not be chargeable with the *Infirmities* of any Perſon however nearly ally'd to him. But as he had doubtleſs been a great Inſtrument in the Exaltation, he could not but apprehend that himſelf would in ſome Meaſure ſhare in the Diſgrace of his Brother, though it might be occaſioned by *Levities peculiar* to the latter. D^r. Stone, primate of Ireland ≠

The ſecond of the Triumvirate I hinted at was yet more unfortunately circumſtanced. He was ſuppoſed to be juſt then on the Point of ſhining in a Sphere, from which his Abilities and Principles would have extended their Influence to the remoteſt Parts of the Earth, when this curſed Accuſation of yours unſeaſonably called forth all his native Modeſty, and for the preſent diſconcerted his Plan.

The

The Third, though diſappointed, was not in ſo precarious a Condition, as to apprehend any Danger of being cruſh'd. But his Miſfortune was, that his Patron was embarraſs'd, and at a Loſs to account for ſo extraordinary a Promotion, inconſiſtent with his own Principles and Profeſſions, and derogatory to his great Judgment.

What a Combination of diſtreſsful Circumſtances this was, for an Accuſation, like yours, to fall in with, they can beſt explain to the Public, whenever they find it expedient to make their Appeal. I can ſuppoſe them to have utter'd Execrations againſt Fate, againſt you, againſt their Enemies, if not againſt the Conſtitution itſelf, which gave Importance to a Charge of this Nature, in their nocturnal Meetings, or in their more private nocturnal Meditations, when each of them had only himſelf to fear. I cannot help being ſympathetical on the Subject, when I recollect, how horridly my own Repoſe was interrupted by the ſingle Conſidera-

tion, that the Time of this Event was ſo critical, that the only apparent Way of extricating them was by denying the Fact; a Method which, however ſupported by their Characters and Conſciences, was ſo frequent and obſolete, having been practiſed by almoſt all the Innocent and Guilty that ever fell under an Accuſation, that I was in Pain, leſt the capricious Opinion of the World ſhould not be ſo perfectly ſatisfy'd, as theſe Gentlemen, and their Judges, had Reaſon to be.

But the Time of its Appearance was far from being the worſt Circumſtance attending this inauſpicious Charge. The diſtant Period at which you fix'd it, when they firſt enter'd the World, and though arriv'd at Years of Maturity, yet were very unexperienced in the Ways of Mankind, would have extenuated it in the Caſe of other Men, but was in their Caſe conſider'd by themſelves, as well as others, in the Light of an Aggravation.

For

For they wiſely reaſon'd thus, " If theſe ſhould appear to have been our Profeſſions at a Time of Life, when we muſt be ſuppoſed raw in the Arts of Diſſimulation, when the Impreſſions of Education had ſtill their full Force, and at a jovial Hour, when Wine and Friendſhip are apt to keep up a more ſtrict Coreſpondence than uſual between Mens Hearts and Lips, How can all our Profeſſions to the contrary, at preſent, ever poſſibly gain Credit? Will it not be objected, that we have been too long weaned from our youthful Simplicity, to profeſs on all Occaſions, our real Sentiments? That the Zeal by which we have diſtinguiſhed ourſelves in the Service of old Friends, who publickly ſcorn the total Converſion we pretend to, is a ſtronger Evidence of our Intentions, than any Declarations on our Part; and that theſe Intentions ſeem not a little corroborated by a ſtrong Fact, dated in the Days of our Innocence, and concurring with ſo many Suſpicions?"

This

This made an Affair very alarming to them, which in itſelf had only the Appearance of being fooliſh and ridiculous. And thoſe who cenſure their Conduct for the Steps they took, and the Solemnity with which they aſſerted their Innocence, are too haſty in judging, and do not make the Allowances they ought, for thoſe *inward Feelings* of Men, which are more apt to prompt them to Action, than the external Reaſon of Things.

In the next Place conſider, how bitterly they muſt have ſuffer'd from the Scene of Action, the Place where you repreſented this *Love Feaſt* to have been held. It was at the Houſe of one, who, tho' his Character was on this Occaſion honourably cleared, labour'd under general Imputations of ſuch a Nature, as are ſeldom groundleſs when they are general, and were in his Caſe ſupported by the known Tenor of his Life in every Reſpect, except only the intimate Friendſhip he enjoyed with theſe Gentlemen. I am far from mentioning this Circumſtance as a Reproach to the Memory of that *worthy good Man and Friend*

Friend to the preſent Eſtabliſhment, whoſe Aſhes I wiſh to reſt in Peace. I mean no more than to juſtify my own Deſertion of you, by repreſenting to you, what Anxiety our Friends muſt have felt from every the moſt minute Particular, in the Calumny you had unguardedly thrown out againſt them.

The Fact itſelf, diveſted of all its Circumſtances, demanded, and therefore juſtified a thorough Purgation on their Part. Only conſider how theſe public Patterns of Virtue and Decency muſt have been ſhock'd at the Charge of ſo accumulated and deeply rooted a Piece of Immorality, as that of mutual Vows, attended with Libations, and other ſtrong Marks of Cordiality, againſt a Conſtitution, which they knew to be founded in the natural Rights of Mankind, of which they ſaw the Bleſſings diffus'd even amongſt their own Friends, and of which the Overthrow could not be meditated, but by the moſt malignant Mind, that ever wore the Maſk of a Man. There are a thouſand Follies of Youth,

Youth, which Men recollect with Pleaſure, when they are advanced in Years, but the Folly they were accuſed of was ſo mixed with Guilt, and ſo aggravated by their Reputation for Underſtanding and Literature, that there was never a Piece of Iniquity which could have ſo little Pretenſion to ſcreen itſelf under the Name of a Frolick.

If you ſuppoſe them at that Time gently inſpir'd by the Ambition, which hath ſince ſwell'd their Minds, the Fact, if we might be allowed to ſuppoſe it true, would be quite unaccountable; at leaſt there would but be one Way of accounting for it, that they were very ſecure againſt any *Delatores*, and could enter into the Service of the Public with a Deſign, of making their Ambition and their Principles occaſionally ſubſervient to each other, of gratifying the one at all Times, and modelling the other according to the Exigences they were in, till a proper Seaſon offered of exerting them with the moſt Succeſs, and to the beſt Advantage.

But

But what a profligate Syſtem of Action is this, and how alienated from all Conſiderations of Virtue and Honour, muſt be the Character that could originally plan ſuch a Scheme, and ſucceſsfully execute it! Such a Character would be eaſily reconcileable to an expurgatory Oath againſt any Charge, were it not the Wiſdom of Law, in ſome Caſes, that an expurgatory Oath ſhall fully diſculpate a Character, rather than that the Character ſhall invalidate the Oath.

But the Immorality of the Fact and the Iniquity of Heart, from which it muſt have proceeded, had it been true, could only diſcredit them with good Men, whoſe Minds would naturally be diſtracted by anxious Apprehenſions for their Country, if it ever ſhould be obliged to ſubmit to the Influence of ſuch Men or ſuch Principles. Good Men are but few in Number, ſtudious of Peace, and too often patient Yielders to the Proſperity of the Wicked. So that their Diſpleaſure could not be very formidable to an active, aſpiring Genius.

nius. But what a Figure muſt Men of their Gravity make under this Imputation, in the Eyes of *Men of Senſe*, to whom they had become reſpectable by their Solemnity, and whoſe Eſteem we may ſuppoſe them rather more ambitious of, than the Affection of a few impotent good Minds?

I cannot imagine a more ridiculous Group, than theſe great Genii in the Attitude, in which your original Account repreſented them, warm with Wine and Zeal, offering Incenſe, with earneſt Genuflexion, to the great Object of Biggots, Fools and Profligates. Try this Piece of Humour by the Rules of good Senſe, compare it with any other Levities of Youth, but above all Things compare it with the preſent Perſons and Character of theſe Gentlemen; ſuppoſe them very ſenſible, as undoubtedly they are, that in their Situation, and under their Proſpects, nothing is of ſuch Conſequence to them, as that their Characters ſhould not be ridiculous; and then imagine what they felt, when a Charge was cruelly raiſed

raiſed, which, amidſt all the Odium it excited againſt them in Men of Probity and public Spirit, render'd them exceſſively ridiculous to Men of Senſe, whoſe Indignation was ſtifled by the Laughter, which ſo odd, ridiculous, groteſque an Image extorted.

Theſe are the Reaſons, which created that cold unfriendly Reception you had from your old Friend in the Time of your Diſtreſs; and whilſt I conſider'd Things in this Light, you could not expect me to deſert all former Attachments, for the Sake of one, who appear'd to me a Traitor, an Enemy to the Peace of Society; one in whoſe Preſence a favourite Paſſion or Prejudice muſt be bridled with a Force, that is painful to an ingenuous Mind. But Time has done you the Juſtice, which no Repreſentation of yours could have done; it has pleaded your Cauſe as effectually, as if your good Friend the great Orator had undertaken to patroniſe it, when *Council was retain'd againſt you.*

I flatter'd myſelf indeed with the Hopes of ſeeing you brought to condign Puniſhment for aſperſing Characters of ſuch Eminence, ſo indiſpenſible to the Service of the Public. I heard of warm Reſolutions and Vows of Revenge, portending all the Severity, which Law and Power could inflict, and expected the Satisfaction of ſeeing you made an Example and Terror to all that have been formerly honour'd with the Friendſhip of the Accuſed, and whoſe Memories might prove as malignant as yours.

But to my great Surprize you no ſooner retir'd, than theſe Threats and this Magniloquence evaporated in Exultations upon the Iſſue of the Enquiry, and in opprobrious Language againſt thoſe weak and ignorant Minds, that had been miſled to entertain the Suſpicion. Your Offence, in alledging a Fact which you did not prove, was treated very gently in Compariſon with the Inſolence of thoſe, who hearken'd to the Fact, before they had heard the Proof.

I am

I am now recover'd from my Surprize, and after the moſt minute Examination of that great Event, of the Behaviour of our Friends before it, under it, and after it; of your Conduct, Confuſion and Prevarication, compar'd with your preſent Proſperity, under your new Connexions, I ſee what I could not have believed from yourſelf or them, that the whole was a moſt refined Piece of Policy, dexterouſly conducted on their Part, faithfully ſupported on yours, brought to a Criſis in the Manner they wiſhed, and a proper Foundation for that Petulance of Victory, which, inſtead of pointing at your Ruin, was now naturally directed another Way, at the Zealots for obnoxious Principles, at thoſe who had given Life to Suſpicions, which, tho' generally prevailing before, were ſeldom vented but in the Confidence of Friendſhip and Secrecy.

Upon this View of Things I am authorized to receive your Friendſhip, with all the Warmth, that Affection for the *good old Cauſe*, for the worthy Patriots of it, and for you, can poſſibly

poſſibly produce. Your original Indiſcretion is not only abſolved, but from the Uſe you made of it, is become ſo meritorious, that I congratulate you on the ſingular Hopes of laying a ſolid Foundation for your future Grandeur, in the Ruins of your Character.

It was hardly poſſible for any of thoſe Perſons, who have habituated themſelves to the moſt natural Action in Characters aſſumed on a public Theatre, to have equalled the Panic and Confuſion, with which you bravely evaded the Evidence of a plain Matter of Fact. An Actor by Profeſſion would have been in Earneſt, when out of his Sphere, and having ſome Dependence on the Eſteem of the Public, would have been very cautious of diſguiſing himſelf, where the Enquiry was ſolemn, and the Matter of it intereſting. But you ſo admirably connected the natural Confuſion, which muſt ariſe on the Occaſion, with that artificial Terror, which it was Matter of Honour and Fidelity in you to aſſume, that tho' it was impoſſible to convict you of acting

acting a Part, you acted ſo ſucceſsfully, that, had your Hearers been ever ſo ſtrongly prepoſſeſs'd in Favour of the Accuſation, not one of them could, as they were all Men of the higheſt Honour, conclude the Fact from your Evidence.

That you had originally laid the Foundation for this Enquiry, was too clearly proved to be denied. Nor was it the Intereſt of our Friends, that you ſhould *deny* it. It was of more Conſequence to them to have it *retracted*, and to ſee the only apparent Accuſer they had, prevaricating in ſuch Manner, that his Evidence might become void of all Weight and Credibility. It was beſides more eligible to you, and had more the Air of Ingenuity to charge yourſelf with a Falſity, utter'd ſix Months before, than to be convicted, by the moſt reſpectable Witneſs, of aggravating your Indiſcretion by denying it.

All this no doubt had been preſſingly urged upon you by thoſe, to whoſe Advice it was expedient, that you ſhould reſign yourſelf.

And

And that you was compleatly reſigned, and ready to ratify your Penitence by Reſtitution, was manifeſt, when you yourſelf wrote an exculpatory Letter to one of Them, at his Requeſt and in his Preſence. Certainly this Conduct of yours was foreſeen, before the Enquiry was ſet on Foot; for the Enquiry, as I am publicly informed, was not ſollicited by you, or by any Enemy of theirs, but by thoſe, who could moſt avail themſelves of it, by themſelves.

And here I am at a Loſs, after the Encomiums due to your noble Diſſimulation, to invent any that are equal to their conſummate Policy. At a Time when their Characters ſtood in need of Apologies and Vindications, rather than Panegyrics, when the Public was alarm'd with Jealouſies and Suſpicions, apparently too well founded, it was the Contrivance of Minds capable of the deepeſt Deſigns, to exhibit to public View an Accuſation of a Fact, very diſtant in Time, ſupported by no more than a ſingle Witneſs, and his Teſtimony

mony ſo well conducted, that it muſt terminate in the Confuſion, not the Information, of the World.

I cannot agree in Opinion with thoſe who conſider the Agitation they were in as Part of the Plan. It would have been Folly to have put on a Diſguiſe, which paſſed with moſt Men for a Mark of ſomething diſtinct from Innocence. As they are incapable of Folly, it will be very hard to account for it. They had no Reaſon to apprehend any Injuſtice from their Judges, and appear to have been very ſecure from all Conſiſtency or Perſpicuity in the Evidence of their Accuſer; ſo that the beſt Salutation of the Difficulty is furniſh'd by Naturaliſts and Enthuſiaſts; for till the Terror they were in can be otherwiſe accounted for, we muſt aſcribe it to *occult Qualities*, or *inward Feelings*.

Your Evidence having been thus judiciouſly defeated by yourſelf, it was Time to ground, upon the Weakneſs of this Charge, the Malice and Wickedneſs of all the Suſpicions, that

Solution

have

have been entertain'd of Characters perfectly irreproachable in every Reſpect, both political and moral. There could not be a more effectual Way of evincing this, than by producing the ſtrongeſt Teſtimony, and as no one was ſo ready or capable of giving this Teſtimony, as themſelves, ſo, being naturally diffident, and apprehenſive, leſt the Opinion of their Veracity ſhould not be ſufficiently eſtabliſhed to give Credit to their bare Affirmation, they bravely corroborated their own Teſtimony of themſelves by a Proof irreſiſtable in Law, by taking an Oath. And as the Memory of one, who had been united with them in Intereſts and Affection, had been cruelly diſturbed in the Courſe of this uncommon Proſecution, it was found expedient, in Juſtice to him, and in farther Vindication of their own Purity, to ſhew, how little Streſs is to be laid upon popular Opinions, tho' ever ſo univerſal, by a voluntary undeniable Teſtimony, that the Man they were connected with, was as unexceptionable in his political and moral Character, as themſelves.

Now

Now was the Seaſon for changing their Language, and the wiſe Meaſure after ſuch a Flow of Succeſs, in Apologies and Vindications, was, to pave the Way, if poſſible, for Panegyrics.

In the Enjoyment of theſe I muſt leave them, and only repeat my Congratulations to you upon your Conduct and the Succeſs of it. Had you perſevered in the Words, which, I may now ſay, fortunately eſcaped you, you would have been in a moſt deſperate Situation, perpetually reproached with Ingratitude to your Friends, with betraying innocent Levities, which might ariſe from the Chearfulneſs and Good-humour with which Wine and Friendſhip are uſually attended; you would have been perſecuted in your Profeſſion, would have been diſtruſted where-ever the Influence of thoſe Gentlemen extended; Men who had no Merit of their own, would have made a Merit of throwing out Reproaches againſt you; all the Venom of a Set, who forty Years be-

fore eſteem'd it Virtue and public Spirit to diſturb the Peace of the Government, would now have been ſhot at you for interrupting the Peace of theſe *good Subjects*. Even if the Fact had proved true, it would have made no Alteration in your Favour, for the acknowledged Merit and Virtues of theſe Gentlemen muſt have prevailed, and conſequently you muſt have been infallibly cruſh'd. The only Way you could poſſibly have to extricate yourſelf was that which you happily embraced, of becoming yourſelf the Evidence of your own Falſhood.

A diſmal Condition this for a Man of delicate Honour, and one ſo vain of his former Connections, as to expoſe them rather than not diſplay them, to be left Friendleſs and out of all Confidence, except with the few, who might have approved of an obſtinate Perſeverance in Spite of Promiſes and Threats, who might have thought an uniform Character more honourable than a prudent one

one. Whereas you are now in the happy State of untainted Innocence: Your Crime is expunged; your ſuppoſed Enemies never mention your Name; you are deſpiſed indeed by thoſe few, but their Contempt is at preſent an Omen of Proſperity; you have the Comfort of being conſcious, that you have done Service to the Cauſe which you ſeem'd to wound; and tho' you ſhould hereafter meet with any Mark of Contempt from ſome prudent Perſon in Connection with them, you may reſt aſſured that he too is in Charity with you, and only reſtrained by Decency and the Appearance of Things, from paying you thoſe Honours publicly, which in his private Opinion you have amply merited, and from conferring the Reward, to which your Taciturnity would have been intitled, upon a Loquacity ſo wiſely directed and ſo abundantly atoned for.

It would demand a whole Life of true Merit to arrive at the Credit, which you have drawn from this ſingle Event. You rightly

rightly judged that it was an Event of ſuch Importance, that all the Power and Figure of your Friends, and the great Deſigns they have for their Country, depended on it. They will convince you how well you judged, when at a diſtant Period of Time, when the Caſe is not quite ſo recent, they ſhower down the Favours upon you, in the Fulneſs of their Power, which now they can only venture to communicate thro' *faithful* Friends. The Public will then ſee Things in their true Light, and honour all that have contributed in any Degree towards the Syſtem of Things then prevailing; all that have been wiſe enough to deſpiſe the Infamy of ſaying and unſaying, of prevaricating and confounding, when brought in Competition with the Merit of reſcuing great Names from the Jaws of Calumny. It was a falſe Zeal rather than Malice or Perfidy, that moved you to lament that ſuch Men or their Principles ſhould be predominant. You have ſeen your Error, and amply atoned for it, by doing your Part towards their Stability; and you have the una-

unanimous Thanks of thoſe, who have now more Reaſon than ever, to hope for better Times.

I have uſed the Freedom which was formerly reciprocal between us, flattering myſelf it might have the Effect of reſtoring me to the ſame Share in your Affection, to which you are reſtored in mine. As a farther Mark of my Zeal and Regard for your Welfare, permit me to conclude with a familiar Word of Advice.

You are at preſent exalted in Credit and Eſteem; but your Glory is not of a more permanent Nature, than that of Men who riſe to Fame by great Actions. Envy and Faction will ſoon be in Arms againſt you, when they diſcover, that the Diſappointment they have ſo much Reaſon to regret, was the Work of Art and Deſign. Let your Armour be *Silence* and *Reſerve*. Whatever you remember, keep it concealed in your Breaſt. For tho' you have in great Meaſure loſt

loſt the Power of giving your Teſtimony, yet it is poſſible for an unguarded Word of yours to alarm all the Courts in *Europe*, and to engroſs the Attention of this Kingdom, as if the Happineſs, or even the Exiſtence of it, depended upon the Support of two or three private Characters.

Beſides, you will obliterate the great Merit for which you now are applauded, for as it was the Plan to have your Prevarication conſider'd as equivalent to Teſtimony, or at leaſt as a Vindication from that particular Charge, conſider the Confuſion into which you will throw our Friends, by ever repeating and confirming it; and how ridiculous a Figure they will make, in caſe they ſhould be unſupported, and the great Things that are expected from them by your preſent Patrons ſhould not take Place; in Caſe another Syſtem ſhould prevail,

and

and *He*, who cannot do Wrong, ſhould, to ſecure his Intereſt, entruſt them to none but ſuch, as are of acknowledged ORIGINAL Fidelity to HIM.

I am your, &c.

FINIS.

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